Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08
TRSE-00 IO-13 /077 W
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R 211844Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6314
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 0650

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PINS, CO, VE
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ DENIES MIXED ENTERPRISES
FORM PART NEGOTIATING PACKAGE ON GULF OF
VENEZUELA BOUNDARY ISSUE

REF: CARACAS 0562

1. WHEN QUESTIONED BY REPORTERS JANUARY 20 CONCERNING SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY GOV TO OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS ON GULF OF VENEZUELA BORDER ISSUE, PRESIDENT PEREZ DENIED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE CONCEPT OF MIXED ENTERPRISES WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY GOV. PEREZ ALSO SAID THAT INITIATIVE WAS UNDERTAKEN TO INFORM PUBLIC ON STATUS OF PRESENT DISCUSSION, STRESSED THAT NO AGREEMENT IS IMMINENT AND ADDED THAT IF DISCUSSIONS GET TO POINT WHERE BOTH SIDES ACTUALLY ARE TALKING ABOUT THE FORM OF A TREATY, THE COUNTRY WILL BE INFORMED, BUT THAT BOTH SIDES FOR THE MOMENT ARE MERELY AT CONSULTING STAGE.

2. COMMENT: BOTH LEADING AD DEPUTY (SEE REFTEL) AND RANKING COPEI PARTY OFFICIAL HAVE INFORMED US PRIVATELY THAT THE GOV PRESENTATION TO OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS EARLIER THIS WEEK DID CONTAIN SUGGESTION FOR MIXED ENTERPRISES
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FOR OIL EXPLORATION ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER AS REPORTED REFTEL. THE COPEYANO OFFICIAL ADDED THE EFFORT IS LAUDABLE BUT DOUBTED THAT PUBLIC OPINION WOULD ACCEPT THIS FORMULA (EVEN IF COLOMBIA ACCEPTED IT) BECAUSE IT WOULD INVOLVE TACIT RENUNCIATION BY VENEZUELA TO CERTAIN "RIGHTS" IN THE DISPUTED AREA. WE JUDGE THAT PEREZ' DENIAL THAT MIXED ENTERPRISES WERE EVEN SUGGESTED

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STEM FROM JUST SUCH OPPOSITION REACTION, PARTICULARLY TO SUGGESTION THAT COLOMBIA COULD POSSESS OWNERSHIP (EVEN ON MINORITY BASIS) OF ENTERPRISES ON VENEZUELAN TERRITORY. PEREZ' DENIAL COMPLICATES GOV POSITION, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE UNDERSTAND FROM CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES THAT THE TEXTS OF THE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE OPPOSITION PARTIES. IF THIS IS THE CASE, AND MIXED ENTERPRISES ARE MENTIONED IN THE TEXT, PEREZ WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY EXPLAINING AWAY HIS DENIAL. FURTHER, IF THE CONCEPT OF MIXED ENTERPRISES HAD ANY PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS, PEREZ' PUBLIC AND CATEGORIC DENIAL HAS TORPEDOED THEM. IN ANY CASE, THIS EPISODE TELLS US SOMETHING ABOUT PEREZ AND TESTIFIES TO THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE INVOLVING NATIONAL HONOR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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SAS ID: 3542088
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Subject: PRESIDENT PEREZ DENIES MIXED ENTERPRISES FORM PART NEGOTIATING PACKAGE ON GULF OF VENEZUELA BOUNDARY ISSUE
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PINS, CO, VE, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
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